From: Association of Deputy District Attorneys
To: elantz@bakersfieldpd.us
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Courts / Rulings

Court rejects Jerry Brown's clemency orders for 3 more California killers

The California Supreme Court this week rejected three more of Gov.

Jerry Brown's recommendations to commute sentences of longtime prison inmates who he believed had reformed behind bars, including a Sacramento man who beat a man to death in 1997. The court in recent weeks now has denied 10 of Brown's clemency actions, the first time it has exercised that power in half a century.
Sacramento Bee

California Supreme Court wants to know if a new police records transparency law applies to 'Brady Lists' of problem officers
A new public records transparency law that took effect on Jan. 1 might have pulled back the curtain of secrecy around police personnel records more than first realized. Senate Bill 1421, authored by State Sen. Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley, revised state open records laws to make previously confidential information about police shootings, uses of force resulting in great bodily harm, and sustained complaints of sexual assault and dishonesty against officers subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.
East Bay Express

Google wins lawsuit over face-scanning technology
A federal judge ruled Saturday that Google does not violate Illinois privacy laws by automatically creating a face template when Android users upload photos taken on their smartphone to the company's cloud-based photo service. Illinois's Biometric Information Privacy Act, enacted in 2008, was the first state law in the U.S. to regulate the collection of biometric information, which includes facial-recognition data, and remains the only law that allows private individuals to sue for damages stemming from a violation.
Courthouse News Service

Chief Justice Roberts addressed sexual harassment in the federal court system in a new report
In his year-end assessment of the federal court system, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts addressed sexual harassment, vowing to create safeguards for employees like law clerks. Roberts also addressed sexual harassment concerns in his 2017 year-end report after accusations came out against former members of the judiciary. However, the topics the chief justice didn't mention this time around are also notable.
Bustle

California justices deny challenge to new police records law
The California Supreme Court on Wednesday denied a last-minute challenge to a pending state law that opens police records to the public and eases what currently is one of the nation's most secretive police privacy laws. The justices denied a police union's petition contending that the law should make public police records only for incidents that happen after the law took effect Tuesday. They gave no explanation for

the one-line denial order.
AP

Kamala Harris faces charges of religious bigotry
California Senator Kamala Harris is facing charges of religious bigotry for questioning a federal judicial nominee about his membership in the "all-male" Knights of Columbus, a Catholic service organization opposed to gay marriage and abortion. Harris and her fellow member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, asked Brian Buescher, President Donald Trump nominee for the Nebraska federal court, about the Knights weeks ago but the inquiries only attracted attention following a Catholic News Agency article last Friday.
California Globe

Prop 47, 57 & AB 109

Deputy DA outraged over Brown's lawsuit to stop ballot initiative
Four-term Democratic California Governor Gov. Jerry Brown made reforming California's criminal justice sentencing guidelines a priority over his 16 total years as governor. Add to that his record number of pardons and prison commutations, and violent prison inmates have been released or made eligible for early release, according to a group of Deputy District Attorneys ... and not without consequences.
California Globe

Gov. Brown sues to prevent voters from enacting criminal justice reforms
Governor Brown, having been rebuked multiple times last month by the California Supreme Court for "abuse of power" in issuing pardons and commutations, has now resorted to a lawsuit aiming to prevent voters from enacting common sense fixes to his badly flawed Proposition 57. The soon to be ex-Governor is now attempting to block the "Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act" from appearing on the 2020 ballot by claiming the Secretary of State erred in setting the number of valid signatures needed for the initiative.
California Political Review

Crimes of survival
The latest fad in criminal-justice activism is the concept of "survival crime." The theory holds that the homeless, the poor, and people of color commit property crimes and low-level infractions in order to secure their basic survival. Any enforcement of these laws is thus a violation of their basic human rights and should be relaxed - that is, local governments should stop enforcing any laws that "criminalize homelessness" and "criminalize poverty."
City Journal

Police question if pair of South Bay robberies are connected
Two robberies within two hours of each other happened less than six

miles apart in the South Bay. The suspects in both incidents described as four masked men in dark clothing. Coincidence or connection? Investigators don't have an answer but are looking into it. "Every time there's a robbery, especially an armed robbery it's concerning," said Rosemary Baez of San Jose.
KTVU

Prosecutions

Man charged with killing Calif. LEO gets mental health exam
A Mexican national accused of living in the U.S. illegally was charged with murder Wednesday in the shooting death of a California police officer who pulled him over to check if he was driving drunk. Gustavo Perez Arriaga made his first court appearance in the central California city of Modesto but did not enter a plea in last week's killing of Cpl. Ronil Singh of the tiny Newman Police Department.
AP

Security guard charged with murder in Walgreens shooting
A security guard at a Hollywood pharmacy has been charged with murder in the killing of a suspected shoplifter, the District Attorney's Office announced Monday. Donald Vincent Ciota, 28, of Covina, is also facing multiple gun allegations in the alleged murder of 21-year-old Jonathan Hart. Ciota, who is being held on $3 million bail, appeared in a downtown courtroom Monday morning with his defense attorney Mark Geragos, but did not enter a plea.
My News LA

Suspects charged in fatal shooting of Montebello man
Two suspects were arrested and charged in the Nov. 7 robbery and fatal shooting in East Los Angeles of a Montebello man as he walked home after working at a fast food place, authorities said Monday. Abraham Caberea, 19, of Alhambra was supposed to be arraigned Dec. 26 on murder and second degree robbery while Wayne Andrew Seare Jr., 20, of Montebello faced charges of second degree robbery and being an accessory after the fact.
San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Prosecutors seek to use Durst's dismemberment killing in LA trial
Los Angeles County prosecutors want jurors in New York real estate scion Robert Durst's murder trial to hear about the 2001 killing and dismemberment of a Texas neighbor for which he was acquitted, according to court papers filed Thursday. Durst - whose past was detailed in an HBO documentary series - is awaiting trial in connection with the killing of Susan Berman, 55, who was found dead in her home in Los Angeles' Benedict Canyon on Christmas Eve 2000.
City News Service

Homeless woman charged in connection with killing of 75-year-old Pasadena woman
Prosecutors filed a murder charge Friday against a homeless woman accused of killing a 75-year-old Pasadena woman at her condominium earlier this month, authorities said Monday. Mary Jean O'Connor, 41, was arrested on Dec. 26 in North Hollywood, the Pasadena Police Department said in a written statement. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed a case against O'Connor Friday for the death of Jeri Douglas, Los Angeles County Superior Court records show.
KTLA

For years, L.A. prosecutors failed to disclose misconduct by police witnesses. Now the D.A.'s office is trying to change that
The Los Angeles County district attorney's office had plenty of evidence that Sheriff's Deputy Gary Novelich had credibility issues. He admitted during job interviews with two other law enforcement agencies that he had written 20 to 100 inaccurate arrest reports and given inaccurate testimony in court, according to a district attorney's memo.
Los Angeles Times

California prosecutors: PG&E could face manslaughter charges - in theory
Manslaughter and murder are among the crimes Pacific Gas and Electric Co. could have committed under California law if its reckless operation of power lines is found to have sparked any recent deadly wildfire, according to the state's top prosecutor. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and his deputies described to a federal judge Friday a range of possible consequences PG&E could face at the state level, depending on the utility's "mental state," if it is deemed responsible for wildfires that have ravaged the state.
San Francisco Chronicle

Finally, a crackdown on misuse of taxpayer money
Although state law specifically prohibits public officials from using taxpayers' money for political campaigning, they have been doing exactly that throughout California. Local governments hire "consultants" to poll voters on what tax and bond measures they would find acceptable, to draft those proposals accordingly and, finally, to run so-called "information" campaigns to persuade voters to approve them.
CALmatters

Dozens of LAX passengers try to sneak guns past security. Few face serious punishment
The 9-millimeter pistol was loaded when actor David Henrie tried to bring it onto a flight at Los Angeles International Airport. A Transportation Security Administration officer operating an X-ray machine at Terminal 2 spotted the handgun in the carry-on bag of the former Disney Channel star of "Wizards of Waverly Place." Henrie was

arrested Sept. 10 and charged with three misdemeanor violations, including carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a prohibited item in an airport.
Los Angeles Times

Criminal Justice / Public Safety

Too many: 144 cops killed on duty in 2018
A staggering 144 police officers were killed in the line of duty this year, a national report shows, and for the first time in decades the leading cause was shootings. Two of those deaths were in Massachusetts, where Yarmouth Sgt. Sean Gannon, 32, and Weymouth Sgt. Michael Chesna, 42, were gunned down. "When you read it, one of those numbers is yours and it just hits you," Yarmouth police Chief Frank Frederickson told the Herald.
Boston Herald

Research shows that 158 police officers died by suicide in 2018
According to an organization that tracks officer suicides while simultaneously seeking to prevent such tragedies from occurring, at least 158 officers died by suicide in 2018. BlueH.E.L.P. said in a press release that this number is 9% more than the total number of line-of-duty deaths resulting from 15 other causes such as felonious assault, patrol vehicle accident, heart attack, duty-related illness.
Police Magazine

First of its kind training helps officers dealing with mental health issues
More than a dozen local and state police officers, dispatchers and other members of public safety gathered in a first of its kind training in California, centered on how to deal with mental health and trauma. The FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA), in conjunction with Acadia Healthcare, hosted a resilience training for local law enforcement at Santa Monica College in December.
NBC4

Controversial tool emerges in opioid fight: fentanyl test strips
A controversial tool has emerged in the fight against opioid overdose deaths. It's a strip that allows people who use street drugs such as cocaine and heroin to test whether their drugs are laced with fentanyl. If the drugs test positive, they might choose not to use them or choose to use less of them. According to a new report by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fentanyl is now the deadliest drug in America and was linked to nearly 29% of all overdose deaths in 2016.
CNN

Crime

Crime is down in Los Angeles for the first time in five years

For the first time in five years, violent crime was down in Los Angeles in 2018, with the number of homicides on track to be among the lowest in more than 50 years. The data mirror an overall drop in crime this year in the parts of L.A. County patrolled by the Sheriff's Department, as well as in San Francisco and Oakland. After decades of steady decline, violent crime - which includes homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault - had begun climbing in 2014, with a spike in shootings in South L.A. causing particular concern.
Los Angeles Times

Round up: 8 arrests made in death of Corporal Ronil Singh
There has been a round up in California. Authorities said Friday they'd taken two more people into custody in connection with this week's shooting death of Newman police Corporal Ronil Singh. This brings the total number of suspects arrested to eight. The pair were identified as a girlfriend and brother of the suspected gunman. Investigators also may have recovered the murder weapon, the Sacramento Bee reported.
Law Enforcement Today

3 People killed in 'rampage' in Santa Barbara County; suspect shot by deputies
Authorities are investigating after a former Santa Barbara sheriff's custody deputy allegedly killed three people he lived with, including his mother and sister, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office said in a written statement. The suspect in that attack was shot and killed in a confrontation with sheriff's deputies. The incident occurred Friday night at a residence in the 5900 block of Oakhill Road in Orcutt.
KTLA

LAPD seizes rocket launcher, TNT, rifles from South LA home
Los Angeles police seized a rocket launcher, rifles, TNT and dozens of other weapons from a South LA home after a man was spotted riding a motorcycle and carrying a rifle. The incident began Saturday morning when a citizen flagged down officers with the 77th Division to report a man riding a motorcycle with a rifle. Officers headed toward where the motorcycle was last seen and found a man matching the description at a nearby gas station.
ABC7

Napa city and county to pay $5 million to settle lawsuit with family over 3-year-old girl's death
The city of Napa and Napa County will pay $5 million to settle a lawsuit filed by the father and grandmother of a 3-year-old girl who was tortured and killed in 2014. Kayleigh Slusher died in a Napa apartment in January 2014 after being neglected and abusedby her mother, Sarah Krueger, and her mother's boyfriend, Ryan Warner.
Los Angeles Times

Convictions / Sentences

Former USC assistant coach pleads guilty in corruption case
A former assistant basketball coach for the University of Southern California pleaded guilty Wednesday to conspiracy to commit bribery, admitting he accepted $4,100 in cash to steer players at the school to certain financial advisers and business managers. Tony Bland's plea in Manhattan federal court makes it likely he will spend little or no time in prison after he is sentenced April 2.
The News Tribune

Man sentenced to life without parole for killing wife's parents
A West Covina man was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison without the possibility of parole for murdering his wife's parents, who had traveled from China to visit their daughter and grandchildren. A jury in Pomona deliberated about three hours on Oct. 1 before finding Caminero Wang, now 46, guilty of first-degree murder for the April 13, 2016, shootings of Aiping Diao and Shu Zhang, who were both 60 years old.
My News LA

Chinese national pleads guilty to illegally `tipping' LAX customs officer
A Chinese national pleaded guilty Wednesday to handing a U.S. Customs and Border Protection official a so-called "red envelope" containing an illegal gift of $6,000 on behalf of a friend who was trying to enter the country via Los Angeles International Airport. Zulei Wang - who described himself as a Southland resident working as a travel agent specializing in obtaining travel documents - pleaded guilty to a single federal count of giving an illegal gratuity to a public official.
My News LA

Parole / Pardons

Governor reduces murder sentence for another Ventura County homicide
A decision by Gov. Jerry Brown to commute the sentence of a man convicted in a 1979 Oxnard robbery-murder was done over the objections of District Attorney Gregory Totten and the victim's family. Jahn Vann was sentenced on Feb. 25, 1980, to life in prison without the possibility of parole in the killing of Daniel Nack, officials said. On Monday, Brown granted Vann's request to reduce his sentence to 40 years to life with the possibility for parole, Totten's office said Wednesday.
Ventura County Star

Brown list of pardons, commutations includes 3 Humboldt County convicts
Outgoing Gov. Jerry Brown issued a number of pardons and commutations on Christmas Eve, three of them for people who were convicted of felonies in Humboldt County. Michael David Crawford was

fully pardoned for robbery and burglary convictions, while Marcella Lunsford and Dianna Preston, each convicted of murder, had their sentences commuted, giving them the opportunity for parole.
Times Standard

Ex-inmate to keep making podcast that helped him win freedom
In California, inmates typically are granted parole by doing good deeds or showing they have been rehabilitated by becoming pastors, drug counselors or youth advocates. For Walter "Earlonne" Woods, the path to freedom was podcasting. Woods, 47, was recently released from San Quentin State Prison after Gov. Jerry Brown commuted his 31-years-to-life sentence for attempted armed robbery.
AP

Policy & Legal Issues

On crime and punishment, Gov. Jerry Brown leaves behind revised rules and a new focus on redemption
When Gov. Jerry Brown's final term in office ends next week, he will leave behind a California criminal justice system infused with a new commitment to second chances, a shift away from an era in which tens of thousands - many poor, most black or Latino - were imprisoned with little opportunity to turn their lives around. "It's called hope," Brown said in a late December interview.
Los Angeles Times

Beware the next step on criminal-justice reform
The First Step Act, which President Trump signed Friday, is a federal prisoner-leniency measure and a worthy reform. It grants a limited number of federal offenders rational and modest sentence reductions, incentives for rehabilitation, and some humane improvements while they serve their sentences. Yet it contains nothing radical to diminish the criminal-justice system or undermine public safety.
Wall Street Journal

Trump signed the First Step Act for criminal justice reform. Here's the Second Step
Here is something to consider: You can declare personal bankruptcy and have it completely deleted from your credit report after only 10 years. This system was put in place to encourage risk taking, because where there is risk taking, there is economic progress for all. In that manner, the American value of a second chance for anyone actually ends up benefiting everyone.
Fortune

In their fight for broad disclosure of police shooting records, media groups battle sheriff's union in court
The Los Angeles Times and three other organizations have filed a motion

with the California Supreme Court opposing a law enforcement union's last-minute bid to limit the scope of a new law requiring broader disclosure of government records in cases of police shootings and misconduct. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Employees' Benefit Assn. has asked the high court to block the release of records for any shootings or other incidents that occurred before Jan. 1, when the law takes effect.
Los Angeles Times

California sheriff blames sanctuary laws for deputy's death, says suspect was trying to flee to Mexico
A man suspected of gunning down a California policeman was in the U.S. illegally and was captured while planning to flee to his native Mexico, a sheriff announced as he all but blamed the state's sanctuary law for the officer's death. A two-day statewide manhunt ended Friday with the arrest of Gustavo Perez Arriaga, who came out with his hands up as a SWAT team prepared to raid a home in Bakersfield, California.
AP

Los Angeles County

How LA's sheriff plans to deploy body cameras for a lot less money
Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva has wasted no time ripping up the body camera program proposed by his predecessor and coming up with his own. And his approach appears to address the cost concerns of the County Board of Supervisors, which must fund any plan. Villanueva, who took office on Dec. 3, has outlined a plan that he says would cost $13 million annually.
LAist

For LA City Councilman Mitch Englander, being the odd man out was a way in
Mitchell Englander was usually vastly outnumbered when casting a vote as a member of the Los Angeles City Council, often saying "no" when most of his 14 colleagues had all but worn away their "aye" buttons. But when one is in the minority, one gets the opportunity to practice the art of eliciting compromise.
Los Angeles Daily News

Happy new year!
Friends, I want to wish you a Happy New Year! I am grateful to have spent the last few days with friends and family. I hope that you, too, have enjoyed a holiday season surrounded by loved ones. Looking back on 2018 and the last four years as your Sheriff, I am proud of all that we accomplished at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with your support. In case you missed it, here is a special report that documents all of our progress, from achievements like establishing the Human Trafficking Bureau to hiring more than 2,000 new deputy

trainees.
Jim McDonnell

County to cover Bridge to Home gap funding through June 30
Los Angeles County Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger said Friday the county will provide the gap funding that will allow Santa Clarita Valley nonprofit homeless services provider Bridge to Home to stay open between April 1-June 30. Barger will also introduce a motion at the supervisors' next meeting on Tuesday asking for greater transparency and less red tape in the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's funding application and grant process.
SCV News

Lawsuit: Door-to-door salesman gets $750,000 for off-duty Pasadena cop pointing gun and detaining him
A jury on Friday ordered a Pasadena policeman to pay $750,000 to a door-to-door salesman who said the off-duty officer pointed a gun at him without justification when he went to the lawman's Santa Clarita home in 2015 to pitch a security system. The Los Angeles Superior Court jury deliberated for two hours before finding in favor of 37-year-old Omar Segura of Stevenson Ranch and against 45-year-old Officer Sam Priyamal De Sylva.
City News Service

Kids who assault on US bases can still escape accountability
Despite new rules addressing sexual assault among the children of U.S. service members, the federal government failed to fix a flaw that on many military bases has let alleged juvenile abusers escape accountability or treatment. New records obtained by The Associated Press underscore how few child-on-child sex assault reports pursued by military investigators are prosecuted.
WTOC

California / National

A breakdown of California Bar exam results by law school (July 2018)
Results from the July 2017 administration of the California bar exam were released on November 16, 2018, and that day marked a dismal new low for exam-takers in the state. In July 2017, almost half of all test-takers passed the state's notoriously difficult professional entry exam, but this past summer, almost everyone failed.
Above the Law

Qualifying a California ballot measure to become a 'playground of billionaires'
The price of putting an initiative on the ballot is soaring, and California voters have only themselves to blame. The huge turnout in the Nov. 6 election instantly boosted the number of valid signatures required to

qualify a measure for the ballot by about 70 percent. And because almost every initiative backer uses paid collectors to gather those signatures, the cost will skyrocket.
San Francisco Chronicle

Proposition 13 is no longer off-limits in California
Proposition 13 is untouchable. That's been the thinking for 40 years in California. Politicians have feared for their careers if they dared suggest changes to the measure that capped property taxes, took a scythe to government spending and spawned anti-tax initiatives across the country. However, that is beginning to change. With Republican influence in California on the wane and ascendant Democrats making tax fairness an issue, advocates are confident that the time is right to take a run at some legacies of the 1978 measure.
San Francisco Chronicle

Bail bondsmen ask voters to fight back against bail reform
In an attempt to balance how the criminal justice system treats wealthy and low income suspects, California is the first state to completely abolish money bail. Board member of the Professional Bail Agents of the United States, Topo Padilla, is personally invested in this debate. "Three generations here operating this thing and we are going to shutter our doors all because the legislature thinks they have this grand idea of making the tax payers pay for this program rather than it being funded by people putting themselves in the position of needing to bail themselves out of jail," Padilla said.
KRCR

Jerry Brown will leave lasting impact on criminal justice in California
During his first stint as California governor 40 years ago, Jerry Brown appointed a slew of diverse - sometimes controversial - judges and signed a sentencing law that fundamentally changed how the state approached punishment. In some ways, things weren't so different during Brown's second go-around in the governor's office.
KQED

2019 shapes up as another big political year
While 2018 has been a pivotal year in California's political history - particularly the Republican Party's losing half of its congressional seats - 2019 may be even more significant. The state's politics will likely be dominated by two rolling events: the beginning of Gavin Newsom's governorship and California's bid to become a factor in presidential politics.
CALmatters

FPPC ups the ante on illegal expenditures
Over the last several years, this column has exposed multiple instances of government entities using taxpayer dollars for political advocacy, a

practice that is illegal under both state and federal law. Because progress in stopping these violations has been difficult, taxpayers will be pleased to hear that on December 20th, California's campaign watchdog agency, the Fair Political Practices Commission, conducted a hearing on illegal activity by the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART).
The Sun

Feds put pimps next to their underage victim in courthouse, but she's not intimidated
She was an underage sex trafficking victim who was scheduled to testify against her abusive pimps. But just days before the March 2018 trial, "Jane Doe 2" found herself next to Pierre Lagrone, Demarcus Davis and Herman Sanders - the very men who forced her to have sex for money in and around Fort Worth and surrounding areas and who physically and emotionally abused her.
Dallas News

Sen. Wiener reintroduces his 4 a.m. bar closing bill
State Senator Scott Wiener (D, SF), has re-introduced the text of his 4 a.m. bar-closing bill that Governor Brown vetoed last year, possibly assuming incoming Governor (former SF Mayor) Gavin Newsom will be more inclined to let it become law if it again passes the state legislature. Now labeled SB 58, the measure would allow but not require City Councils in nine cities - including Long Beach - to allow 4 a.m. bar closings and if so on what terms.
LBReport.com

California's Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board releases second annual report
California's Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory (RIPA) Board released its second annual report. This year's report builds on the foundation established by last year's report for identifying and addressing racial and identity profiling in California. The Board is made up of 19 members coming from diverse backgrounds, including law enforcement, religious organizations, academia, community organizations, and youth advocacy groups.
Press Release/Department of Justice

Gavin Newsom made these 10 promises on the campaign trail. Let's see if he can keep them
Democrat Gavin Newsom vowed while running for governor to tackle many of California's biggest problems, from health care to homelessness to wildfires. We're watching his efforts to keep his campaign promises.
The Tribune

New Laws

5 new CA traffic safety laws coming in 2019
California is again poised to enact several new laws in the near year. Of

those laws, several apply to traffic-safety measures. One such law is focused on getting people to wear helmets, while another allows for those 18 and older to not wear a helmet. Another is centered around providing a safe zone for those working on trash collection vehicles. Yet another is focused on hit-and-runs.
MSN

New California harassment laws take effect Jan. 1
Disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and the backlash against sexual harassment he spawned led to a raft of new state workplace laws that will take effect Jan. 1. "#MeToo was a dominating topic at the Capitol this year," said Jennifer Barrera, an executive vice president with the California Chamber of Commerce. Gov. Jerry Brown signed eight bills this year aimed at preventing sexual and other forms of harassment on the job and promoting gender diversity on boards.
San Francisco Chronicle

Consumer Information

L.A. County Earthquake early warning mobile app available for download
A phone app that alerts residents to Los Angeles County earthquakes, potentially providing critical seconds of warning before shaking actually starts, will be officially unveiled Thursday, but the feature is already available for download. "Earthquakes are a matter of when - not if. We're officially launching #ShakeAlertLA tomorrow, and today you can become one of the first to use our early warning technology," according to a statement on Mayor Eric Garcetti's Twitter account.
My News LA

Guns

Order that gun makers do impossible en route to Supremes
Several organizations that advocate for the Second Amendment are taking to the U.S. Supreme Court a strategy by the state of California to impose literally impossible demands on gun makers to eventually eliminate their ability to market to customers in the state. Officials with the Second Amendment Foundation and Calguns Foundation have submitted a petition to the court to review their challenge to the state's "Unsafe Handgun Act," which purports to crack down on cheap "Saturday Night Special" weapons that could be unsafe.
WND

Calif. gun laws, criminal justice reform taking effect next year
California Gov. Jerry Brown is leaving office Jan. 7 after signing more than 1,000 laws in his last year, further positioning the state as a bastion of liberal activism and goad to President Donald Trump. The laws, most of which take effect Tuesday, ease criminal sentences, tighten gun restrictions and address climate change, gender

discrimination and sexual harassment. The Democratic governor approved 1,016 laws, the most in any of his last eight years in office.
PoliceOne.com

Corrections

Two inmates and two officers describe what it's like, day-in and day-out, in the county jail
On any given day, the Humboldt County Correctional Facility is home to about 400 people. Most live in general population dorms - large, open rooms where a single correctional officer keeps watch over as many as 75 inmates. Others, including the most violent, the severely mentally ill, and gang members who've informed on fellow inmates, spend their days in the maximum-security unit, locked inside small cells for up to 23-and-a-half hours per day, minus about three hours per week in the rec room.
Lost Coast Outpost

San Quentin inmate who escaped prison captured at Taco Bell
A 21-year-old prisoner who escaped from the high-security San Quentin State Prison in California was captured by police Saturday afternoon. Shalom Mendoza, who was serving five years for using a deadly weapon during a carjacking attempt, walked away from a prison work crew Wednesday, according to police, and was discovered missing that night during an official head count.
MSN

Alameda County giving anti-overdose drug to exiting inmates
Alameda County jail officials have started offering at-risk inmates a potentially lifesaving parting gift upon their release, handing out the overdose-reversing drug naloxone to those prone to opioid abuse. Since beginning the program in September, the agency has offered 78 departing inmates the nasal spray Narcan - a brand name for naloxone - as part of their discharge medications. Fifty-six of these people accepted the offer.
San Francisco Chronicle

Class action claims women inmates exposed to 'severe' sleep deprivation
Alameda County jail officials are exposing women inmates to mental and physical illness and potentially harming their pregnancies by depriving them of sleep, three female inmates claim in a federal class action filed in San Francisco on Monday. Suing on behalf of women incarcerated at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, California, lead plaintiffs Tikisha Upshaw, Tyreka Stewart and Andrea Hernandez claim inmates there are forced to awaken almost hourly for safety checks, pill calls and employee training, in violation of constitutional guarantees against the use of cruel and unusual punishment.
Courthouse News Service

How prison officials see changes implemented to overcome crowded facilities (Video)
The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation puts out recruitment videos. This 2015 video explains the jobs available within the state's prison system; boasting good pay, good benefits and possibility for career advancement.
CDCR

Congressional report: Misconduct by federal prison leaders 'ignored' and 'covered up' on a regular basis
Serious misconduct by senior federal prison officials is "largely tolerated or ignored altogether" as the agency fostered a culture in which some were shielded from discipline or even commended for their service by colleagues, according to a new congressional review. "For high-ranking officers, bad behavior is ignored or covered up on a regular basis, and certain officials who should be investigated can avoid discipline," House investigators concluded in a nine-page report for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
USA Today

Immigration

LASD Sheriff Alex Villanueva weighs in on CA sanctuary policies
In a sit-down interview with Eyewitness News on Thursday, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva weighed in on California's sanctuary policies. The topic gained even more attention after authorities announced that the suspect accused of fatally shooting a police officer during a traffic stop in Stanislaus County last month was in the U.S. illegally.
ABC7

Chuck Norris criticizes California's 'lax immigration laws' after officer's death
Chuck Norris, martial artist and star of the popular television series "Walker, Texas Ranger," took issue with the Golden State's "lax immigration laws" after the recent death of a California police officer. The actor noted that an illegal immigrant, Gustavo Perez Arriaga, killed Cpl. Ronil Singh of the Newman Police Department the day after Christmas, in an article titled "How Many More California Cops Could Die?" on Dec. 30 in his weekly column on the news website, WND.
Epoch Times

Homeless

Volunteers needed for homeless count
With the city hoping to build on last year's slight decrease in the overall homeless population, local leaders are asking residents to volunteer for this year's homeless count on Jan. 22-24. Approximately 8,000 volunteers will be required for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count,

which spans the whole county except Glendale, Pasadena and Long Beach, which conduct their own counts.
Beverly Press

Marijuana

Here's how Year One of legal cannabis in California played out
Decades from now, anyone looking back at California history will note 2018 for one major change: the year recreational cannabis became legal. The sky clearly didn't fall. Some hospitals reported upticks in marijuana-related visits, but reliable data on that issue is a couple years out. And other early reports suggest teen use is down, arrests are plummeting and accidental pet consumption is leveling off.
Orange County Register

California's legal pot rush falls short for dispensaries
Just one year ago, the arrival of legalized, recreational marijuana came with a good bit of celebration in California's cannabis industry. One year later, that same industry is licking its wounds after a long, tough year. "It's just obviously tough for any legal business with the taxes," says Katie Rabinowitz, general manager of Magnolia Oakland, one East Bay dispensary that managed to survive year one of the state's new cannabis rules.
KPIX

Pensions

Brown leaves again with pension reform pending
Gov. Brown leaves office next week with a smaller cost-cutting pension reform than he wanted. But after he's gone, union challenges to minor parts of his reform pending in the state Supreme Court may open the door to big changes. The main parts of Brown's reform add several years to retirement ages and make some employees pay more for their pensions. The changes are limited to employees hired after the legislation took effect on Jan. 1, 2013, and the cost savings are modest.
Calpensions

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